

(e) the funds allocation for SSA for 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) the CAG's Performance Audit Report on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) looked at the programme in its initial years only, where it was not feasible to assess the programmes impact against goals set for 2007 or 2010. That the SSA was able to reduce the number of out of school children dramatically from 4.4 crore during 2001 to 1.34 crore by 2005 was not fully understood or appreciated by the CAG report. The SSA is being implemented with full vigour in all its components.

(c) and (d) An Educational Development Index (EDI) has been developed to track the progress of States towards the goal of universal elementary education based on access, infrastructure, teacher and outcome indicators. As per the EDI, Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are the lowest in ranking whereas Kerala, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Chandigarh are at the top end.

(e) BE for 2007-08 for SSA is Rs. 10,671.00 crores in the Union Budget.

High speed internet connection

2935. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing high speed internet connections to various schools and colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Schemes of Central Government and University Grants Commission which provide assistance for computers to selected schools and colleges do not insist on high speed internet connectivity (speed of 512 Kilo Byte per second (Kbps) or higher).

(b) and (c) Education and Research Network (ERNET), a society under Department of Information Technology is providing internet connectivity at

128 Kbps in schools while University Grants Commission (UGC) is providing assistance to colleges for purchase of computers and also internet connection.

Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University

2936. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University as a fitting tribute during his birth centenary year;

(b) if so, whether any committee is being constituted to look into the matter and control the financial aspects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) On the recommendation of National Implementation Committee for Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of First War of Independence, 1857 and other related events, the Government has taken a decision, in principle, for establishment of Bhagat Singh Chair at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Out of school children

2937. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 40 per cent of children in the age group of 6-14 are out of schools despite utilization of 86 percent fund of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been diversion of SSA funds as well as financial irregularities in many States;